

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
Governor



**KARYN POLITO**  
Lt. Governor

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**Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito Issue Statements  
on Confirmation of Chief Justice Scott Kafker to Supreme Judicial Court**  
*Nominating process announced to fill the vacancy of the Chief Justice of the Appeals  
Court*

**BOSTON** – Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito released the following statements on the Governor’s Council’s 7-0 confirmation of Massachusetts Appeals Court Chief Justice Scott Kafker to the Supreme Judicial Court, and announced the process for recruiting and selecting the next Chief Justice of the Appeals Court.

“Chief Justice Kafker is a distinguished, experienced and dedicated jurist who will serve the people of Massachusetts with fairness and impartiality on our Commonwealth’s highest court alongside his colleagues,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “The Lt. Governor and I appreciate the historic opportunity to fill five seats on the Supreme Judicial Court in our first term. We thank the Supreme Judicial Court Nominating Committee for their efforts to vet candidates and the members of the Governor’s Council for their comprehensive examination and confirmation of Chief Justice Kafker and all our appointees to the SJC.”

“I would like to congratulate Chief Justice Kafker on his confirmation to the Commonwealth’s Supreme Judicial Court, and know that he will tirelessly serve the litigants, lawyers and citizens of the Commonwealth with intelligence and wisdom as he has during his sixteen years on the Appeals Court” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** “Thank you to the members of the Governor’s Council for their careful and thoughtful consideration.”

An Appeals Court Chief Justice Judicial Nominating Commission will be convened to focus on the recruitment and screening of applicants to fill the seat's vacancy, consisting of Lon F. Povich, the Governor's Chief Legal Counsel, Paul T. Dacier, Chair of the Governor's Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), Roberto M. Bracerias and Carol T. Vittoriosio Co-Chairs of the JNC, Stephen M. Reilly, Jr. a member of the JNC and The Honorable Margaret Hinkle (Ret.) a member of the Supreme Judicial Court Nominating Commission.

The commission seeks applicants with judicial and managerial experience who possess the temperament, ability and integrity to freely, impartially and independently interpret the laws and administer justice, and to work collaboratively with their colleagues in crafting opinions and administering the judicial branch of government. Applications are available on the [JNC's website](#) and will be open until August 28<sup>th</sup>.

The 21-member Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), established in February 2015, will continue to screen candidates for posted vacancies on the Massachusetts Appeals Courts and trial courts.

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